is no mean achievement, and millions, though a minority, have been and are maintained in comparative comfort.

So huge a mass of mankind on a low standard of living must be a problem not only for itself but for the rest of the world. The world cannot but be interested in watching the outcome of the phase of the present revolution which affects the economic life of China. If the Chinese succeed in regulating their birth rate and in adapting Western machinery and agricultural and commercial methods in such a manner as to raise the average level of existence, the rest of the human race cannot fail to be benefited. If the standard of living for the masses should fall still lower, not only China but also the rest of mankind will be the loser.

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'An occupation so important to the Chinese as agriculture almost inevitably has given rise to a fairly extensive literature. We know of a book on this subject as early as the fifth century of the Christian era. At least one fragment of a T'ang dynasty treatise, on the construction of ploughs, has come down to us. A work of the Sung dynasty containing pictures of various phases of agricultural

operations and of weaving has survived. There is another one of the same dynasty which treats of farming, the breeding of cattle, and the rearing of silkworms. Still another, drawn up by imperial order, appeared in the Yuan dynasty. There are others from the Ming and the Ch'ing, either compiled or published by imperial decree. One of these Chinese treatises on agriculture has been translated by O. Franke in *Keng Tschi Tu, Ackerbau und Seidengewinnung in China* (Hamburg, 1913).

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